



Kent Williams

Speaker

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House of Representatives

State of Tennessee

Nashville

Office of the Speaker

October 14, 2009

District Address

126 South Main Street

Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643

Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writing to express my concern about the FCC's upcoming announcement on network neutrality. Heavily regulating wireless networks will reduce the investment in Tennessee and cut into job growth – two issues that affect my constituents deeply.

As Speaker of the Tennessee House, I have seen the rapid rise of the wireless market in our state. What a great success story. Nearly all residents and businesses have access to advanced wireless phones and networks, while the strong, competitive market keeps bringing new innovation. The reason for this success has been the absence of government interference. Thus, it is imperative that the FCC retain the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that has built the robust wireless and online networks we have today.

The FCC can take another step by avoiding network neutrality regulation of broadband deployment. Bringing broadband to all areas of the nation also requires investment in networks, well-paying local jobs and the technology needed for our cities and towns to grow new businesses that depend on communications. That is particularly important in the rural area of Tennessee that I represent.

I think we all agree that a fair and open Internet is important, but your proposed regulations on traditional and wireless broadband service will shut off the Internet to many constituents in my state and further cost us jobs and investment.

Please don't close the door to opportunity and jobs for people in my state with unnecessary new regulations.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "W".

Kent Williams
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State of Tennessee